

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 L-03 SS-15
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-09
ICA-20 PA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 /095 W
-----108090 080439Z /23

P 080422Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8593
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
HICOMTERPACIF SAIPAN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 10357

FOR MORRIS BUSBY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, JA, GN, XP, PP
SUBJECT: JAPAN-GILBERT FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING ARE TRANSLATIONS FROM JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWS-
PAPERS CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS BY JAPAN TO SECURE TUNA
FISHING RIGHTS IN 200 MILE FISHERY ZONES.

(A) SUISAN TSUSHIN 6/7/78 JAPAN-GILBERTS NEGOTIATIONS
REACH SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT

TO SET FORTH CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY OF JAPANESE TUNA AND
SKIPJACK FISHING VESSELS INTO GILBERT ISLAND 200 MILE
FISHERY ZONE, THE THIRD JAPAN-GILBERTS GOVERNMENTAL
NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD IN TARAWA FROM MAY 25. SUBSTANTIVE
AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. UPON RETURN TO TOKYO,
MR. FUJINAMI (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE MINISTRY
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OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY) TOLD THE PRESS, "REPRE-
SENTATIVES OF THE GILBERTS WILL VISIT TOKYO WITHIN JUNE TO
FINALIZE THE TEXT OF AGREEMENT AND ANNEX TO IT WITH A HOPE
BY THE GILVERTS TO HAVE THE AGREEMENT COME INTO FORCE
JULY 1, 1978, ALTHOUGH THIS DUE DATE MAY BE DELAYED IN
VIEW OF JAPANESE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES."

THE AGREEMENT CONTAINS:

1. JAPAN TO PAY BASIC FISHING FEE AMOUNTING TO
US\$600,000/YEAR.
2. JAPAN TO PAY ADDITIONAL FISHING FEE FOR CATCH IN
EXCESS OF 11,500 MT/YEAR (2,000 MT FOR TUNA LONGLINERS AND
9,500 MT FOR SKIPJACK POLE-AND-LINERS). AMOUNTS OF FISH-
ING FEES ARE EQUIVALENT TO 5 PERCENT OF VALUE OF CATCH
(US\$1,350/MT) BY TUNA LONGLINERS AND TO 5 PERCENT OF THE
VALUE OF CATCH (US\$500/MT) BY SKIPJACK POLE-AND-LINERS.
3. NUMBER OF JAPANESE VESSELS PERMISSIBLE TO ENTER ZONE
IS 400 VESSELS. APPLICATIONS IN EXCESS OF THIS MAXIMUM
NUMBER WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE GILBERTS.
4. FISHING AREA IS WITHIN 3-200 MILES OF COAST.
5. PURSE SEINERS ARE PROHIBITED UNTIL CONDITIONS OF
STOCKS ARE MADE KNOWN.

DEPENDING ON AN OUTCOME OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM'S POLICY,
ABOVE TENTATIVE MEASURES WILL BE TERMINATED AT END OF
MARCH 1979 IN ORDER TO SHIFT THEM TO FORMAL AGREEMENT. IN
THAT CASE, THE BASIC ANNUAL FISHING FEE AND MAXIMUM ANNUAL
CATCH QUANTITY WILL BE REVISED PROPORTIONATELY TO A PERIOD
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OF NINE MONTHS.

WITH REGARD TO JAPANESE OPERATIONS FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS
FROM APRIL 1 TO DATE PROVISIONAL MEASURES BECOME
EFFECTIVE, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT JAPAN WILL PROVIDE THE
GILBERTS WITH FISHERIES EQUIPMENT (PROBABLY FISHING VESSELS)
WORTH US\$150,000.

B. SUISAN KEIZAI SHIMBUN 6/7/78 NEWSPAPER COMMENT

THIS AGREEMENT DIFFERS GREATLY FROM AGREEMENT WITH PAPUA
NEW GUINEA, IN WHICH PNG HAS SOLD THE FISHING GROUND TO
JAPAN IN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO 320 MILLION YEN (ABOUT 1.5
U.S. MILLION DOLLARS) AND AS MANY JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS
AS JAPAN WISHES CAN ENTER THE PNG ZONE, INDICATING PNG'S
LESS CONCERN OVER THE RESOURCES. WHEREAS, THE GILBERTS DO
CARE ABOUT RESOURCES, AND HAVE INTRODUCED THE LIMITED
ENTRY FORMULA AND ARE TRYING TO SET THE AMOUNT OF FISHING
FEE IN PROPORTION TO THE CATCH. IN THIS REGARD, THE
GILBERTS APPEAR TO BE THEORETICAL IN THEIR WAY OF THINKING.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT WITH PNG, IT IS RISKY FOR JAPANESE

VESSELS AS COST OF OPERATION WILL BE VERY HIGH WHENEVER
THE CATCH IS POOR. THERE IS NO SUCH FEAR WITHIN THE GILBE
GILBERTS ZONE, AND AS SUCH, THE FISHING FEE TO THE GILBERTS
MIGHT BE CHEAPER THAN THAT TO PNG. THE GILBERTS HAVE
NOT ADOPTED THE PNG FORMULA WHICH THEY THINK WOULD
LEAD TO DESTRUCTION OF THE RESOURCES. IN ANY CASE, THESE
TWO METHODS WILL EXERT INFLUENCE ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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FOR MORRIS BUSBY

FORUM COUNTRIES IN THEIR FUTURE FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS.
MANSFIELD

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